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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 9 May 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your attention new provocative actions to be carried out by the illegal regime in the areas of the Republic of Cyprus occupied by Turkey.

In information made public, the illegal secessionist entity set up in the occupied areas of Cyprus has announced its intention to put up for sale properties, namely, two hotels, "The Dome" in Kyrenia and "The Salamis Bay" in Famagusta, which were illegally usurped from their rightful owners following the Turkish invasion and occupation of a large part of Cyprus in 1974. According to this information, the aforementioned actions are to be taken as first steps in a so-called "privatization programme".

Such properties belong to their legal owners who were forcibly uprooted from their ancestral homes and properties by the Turkish invading and occupying forces.

With regard to the ownership of property, I should also like to refer to the binding decision of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of Loizidou versus Turkey, which concluded in its judgement of 18 December 1996 that the applicant remained legal owner of her property in the occupied area and that Turkey was in violation of the European Human Rights Convention by preventing her from returning to and enjoying her property in Kyrenia.

These actions by Turkey, which are aimed at consolidating the fait accompli created through the use of military force, are in violation of the principles and norms of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, as well as relevant United Nations resolutions on Cyprus.

Moreover, these Turkish actions take place at a most sensitive phase of the Cyprus problem, at the very time when you are exerting determined efforts to bring about a just and lasting solution.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I strongly protest these illegal Turkish actions and request the immediate intervention of the United Nations to prevent them from taking place.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative